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OVER-CROWDED:
Bowling Green Humane Society in trouble due to too many animals; **PAGE 3**

BG NEWS

Bowling Green State University
A weekly independent student press

WEDNESDAY

July 24,
2002

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VOLUME 94 ISSUE 10

Residence renovations underway

By Dave Schrag
THE BG NEWS

In a meeting on Dec. 11 of last year, the Board of Trustees Actions proposed many improvements to buildings on campus. As of the beginning of the summer, Kohl Hall and the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity are two of many buildings getting renovated.

Kohl Hall, which was built in 1939, is undergoing a complete overhaul. According to Robert Waddle, Assistant Vice President of Capital Planning, the renovations to Kohl Hall are anything but quick.

"The Kohl Hall project is phased," Waddle said. "Restroom and heating work will take place this summer while next summer we plan to complete the reconfiguration of the first floor."

These new renovations are to bring Kohl Hall up to code and to also get ready for the move of the Chapman Learning Community

from Chapman to Kohl. Included in the proposed renovations are the heating system, ADA pathways to make the building handicap-accessible, fire alarm upgrades and replacement of doors and locks. As recorded in the minutes of the Board of Trustees, these renovations are going to cost approximately \$1.11 million.

The renovations to Kohl Hall started in the early part of summer and the first part of the phased renovations should be completed by the end of August, just in time for the start of school. The next phase is set to start in January of 2003. The contractors working on the project are Comte Construction, Hanks Plumbing and Heating and TAS, Inc. All of these bids are within the original \$2 million budget. Munger Munger & Associates Inc. was the company hired to prepare drawings for the upcoming renovations.

tions.

Pi Kappa Phi, one of the many fraternities here at BGSU, is also on the construction line. Pi Kappa Phi is located adjacent to Rodgers Hall and Jerome Library on fraternity row.

The structure of the building will remain the same, but the fraternity will be newly renovated.

"The Pi Kappa Phi project is essentially renovating the entire building, without changing the configuration," Waddle said.

The complete overhaul of the fraternity house should cost around \$350,000, and will also be done by August. The Office of Residence Life has decided to only go ahead with the renovation of this one fraternity house to see how the renovations go. This unit's renovation will be a prototype for future fraternity renovations.

RENOVATIONS, PAGE 2



Jenn Trevino BG News

BIG MESS: Kohl Hall is undergoing renovations this summer, as the U. tries to improve one of the older residence halls on campus.



Jenn Trevino BG News

JAMMING: Crazy Eddie guitarists Jamie Hensley (left) and Kerry Tuttle jam at Howards Club H. The band is one of many staples in Bowling Green.

Three bars strive to keep local music alive



Howard's

Located downtown on Main St., Howard's Club H is the place to be if a band is in Bowling Green.

With an impressive blend of regional, local and national acts Howard's has become the ultimate host.

Diverse crowds crammed into a smaller-than-normal viewing area give a more intimate setting than most, but the sights and sounds of Bowling Green's best bands drown out the smell of the guy next door and make for a pleasurable experience.

— Joel Hammond



Brewster's

Brewster's Pourhouse features live music for those old enough to meet the 21-and-over age limit.

Since new management took over Brewsters has enjoyed a resurgence in live music.

Brewster's has much in common with Howard's and Nate & Wally's, but the jam bands and DJ's found at Brewster's contrast the hard rock atmosphere found elsewhere.

This Saturday, the GhettoBillies, will fill Brewster's with country rock and folk.

— Chuck Soder



Nate & Wally's

Nate & Wally's Fishbowl is a small, Hawaiian-style bar on Wooster. That stage, located just behind a window off Wooster, hosts mainly hard-rock acts.

Though the bar offers stage-time to local acts, most of the performers are part of regional and nationally touring bands.

Co-owner Nate Cortes said the bar is leaning toward national acts because too few local bands have managed to develop sizeable followings.

— Chuck Soder

Sound Off?

Is live music in Bowling Green in trouble?

By Dan Nied
THE BG NEWS

Three bars form the backbone of the Bowling Green music scene.

Nestled cozily in a tightly wrapped space on Wooster, Nate and Wally's Fishbowl isn't really intimate — it's small. About 250 people can fit into the hawaiian-themed bar that pours live music into the street, a direct result of a stage set against the backdrop of the bar's front window.

Around the corner of Main street is Brewsters Pourhouse, a bit larger than Nate and Wally's, but with a smaller stage and a more eclectic, hippie-girl feel that houses DJ's and jam bands.

And across the street is the mecca, the king: Howards Club H, the bar that has defined live music in Bowling Green since 1973.

"It's probably the best (venue) in town," said Howard's manager John Desmith. "We have the size, the acoustics. That's why people want to play here. If you ask bands 'where is your favorite place to play', 95 percent will say here."

These days, most local and regional bands in Bowling Green play bat triumvirate. Easystreet Cafe was prominent on the music scene, however, this summer, management decided to halt their live music business indefinitely and host only an open mic night and a jazz night.

By and large Bowling Green music has thrived on local bands. However, some insiders fear that those times might be behind us. Where local headliners used to get consistently large crowds for every show, trends in

crowd size have been highly erratic lately. Adam Schlosser, a founding member of Jukebox Soul, and has worked as a bartender at Howard's says that he's seen uncertainty in the music scene over the last year.

"I'm beginning to notice that bar crowds are always changing," Schlosser said. "One night a band will have a great turnout and then have a million no-shows the next. It seems like the fans have become unpredictable in the last year. I'm not sure why."

Erik Pepple, former music director at WBGU-FM, offers that Bowling Green students don't have one band that they can rally around and jointly support.

"The scene is viable. But there needs to be more unity among it. The only unity seems to be among bands of a like minded genre," he said. "It has become more specialized. Certain bands attract a certain type of person. It is very segmented, there's not one band that everyone agrees on. It's good and bad because people are discussing it but no one can rally on one band."

Nate Cordes, co-owner of Nate and Wally's Fishbowl, says he's seen the number of reliable local draws go down recently. It's an occurrence that, he says, has forced him to book mostly national acts.

"We've been doing a lot of national acts lately," he said. "There is a draught of drawing local bands. There are a lot of good ones out there that don't draw anybody. It takes a few years to get a good following. I'm there to support the local bands, I'm just not getting as much stuff

as I used to on local bands."

In the 1990's Cordes managed Club 21, now Kamikaze's, and booked a wildly successful run of regional acts including Kid Rock, The Verve Pipe and Sponge. He says he recently struck agreements with three booking agents that represent over 50 national bands including Ekoostick Hookah and Bruce Hornsby.

On the contrary, Desmith says that he's seen a marked improvement in the local scene over the years. He points to bands like Goiterjelly, Stylex and Crazy Eddie as the leaders of the perceived surge.

"Local music has stepped up a notch around here," he says. "It's better than it was 6 or 7 years ago. It seems like some of the bands have been together a lot longer. Now most of them are pretty good."

Also rising up is a recently erected hip hop movement, started by Common Ground and led by rap duo Star Afrique, made up of former University students Abibo (King Shasa) Ngandu and Emmanuel (Shoko Blaze) Essel, which has become one of the biggest local draws, getting a not-too-shabby 200 fans regularly to Howards.

"Hip hop has been in BG for a very long time but it's always struggled to get to a certain level," Ngandu says. "The hip hop scene now has come a long way."

Nationally known bands that find themselves in Bowling Green have been reserved for either Anderson Arena, the Lenhart Grand Ballroom in the

MUSIC, PAGE 2

O-Reg staffers lend helpful hand

By Mary Beth White
THE BG NEWS

If you have crawled out of your cave lately you've probably noticed the incoming freshmen swarming the campus. Ahead of the crowds, it's hard to miss the orange-shirted orientation and registration leaders directing the flow of traffic.

These men and women represent the University four days a week by showing new students everything from where to grab lunch to how to grab A's, and all of them agree that they are doing an important job.

"We are the first positive interaction [the freshmen] have with the campus and with students," said Jamie Borowski, a first year

O-Reg leader.

"I know what it was like to be a student and now I can help the new students," said Oreg leader Kevin Gutkunst.

In order to educate and befriend the new freshmen, O-Reg leaders must endure a rigorous schedule. Many of the leaders even stay with the freshmen overnight in Offenauer.

"The seventeen hour days are tough," said Borowski.

The day of an O-Reg leader or a new freshmen includes welcome meetings, placement tests, meals and breakout groups, where leaders really get a chance to shine. In breakout groups students can ask questions about every aspect of campus life for O-

Reg leaders to answer.

"The University doesn't pay me enough to be dishonest, so I tell the students all of my experiences both positive and negative," Josh Kontak said.

It's not only the students who have questions for the O-Reg leaders, parents have a lot, too. Their questions, though can be a little different, explained Holly Haines.

"Parents are more concerned with safety and finances," said Haines. "Students are more concerned with academics and social life."

Overall, the O-Reg leaders have had positive experiences with their job.

Kevin Gutkunst plans on

teaching after graduation. He said being an O-Reg leader was "a precursor to what [he] wants to do." He also said this job has helped him form "better interpersonal skills."

Haines agreed. "It develops my communication and leadership skills," she said.

Kontak also sees the job helping him in the future. He is going to be an RA in the fall semester.

The best part of the job for Jaime Borowski is meeting the incoming freshmen.

"I've met a lot of students who will definitely become leaders on campus. I'd like to stay in contact with them," Borowski said.

While these leaders are having a positive experience overall, the

job can get monotonous if they aren't careful.

"Each group has its own personality that you have to recognize," explained Borowski.

With each group Kevin Gutkunst recommends doing things just a little bit differently.

"Anybody who cares about the job changes things around, otherwise you get stuck in a rut," he said.

O-Reg is over today, and now these student leaders will be able to see if all of their hard work has paid off.

As new students arrive on campus, the former leaders will have to "balance being an advisor and being a friend," said Borowski.

Kohl, Pi Kappa Phi get facelift

RENOVATIONS, FROM PAGE 2

The Vetter Design Group was hired to draw designs for the renovations and the contractors hired were Wilson Builders, Hanks Plumbing and Regent Electric. These renovations started in late May and will be done by the start of school in August.

"Any improvements to a building are certainly a positive and can be a benefit to those who live there," Waddle said. "In both of these instances, we are really addressing and looking at programmatic benefits as much as physical improvements for these buildings, and the information that we gather will have an impact on our long range planning for the next few years."

Convocation center could be answer

MUSIC, FROM PAGE 1

union or the County Fair. However, these parameters can be crossed if demand grows. In 2001, the Ohio State-based band, Of A Revolution (O.A.R.), came to Bowling Green for University Activities Organization's spring concert. While O.A.R. was yet to breakthrough to national status, they played the 4,000 seat Anderson Arena and nearly filled the place, bringing in 3,300 people, a record number for the band at the time.

Conversely, national hip-hop acts Run DMC and the Roots came about two weeks after O.A.R. and sold about a thousand less tickets. That statistic is telling, not only of what kind of acts the University brings in, but also of the music preferences of University Students.

But still, for several reasons, Bowling Green has not broken through as a national stop. Bands who are passing from Detroit to

Cleveland would rather stop in the more populated areas of Toledo than take in the college vibe of Bowling Green. In 1997, Blues Traveler booked a show in Toledo on the offday of a three-day stint opening for the Rolling Stones in Columbus. While Bowling Green was 20-minutes closer to Columbus, no venue in the city outside of the sound-heavy Anderson Arena could have held Blues Traveler at the time.

"It is the lack of populace and decent facilities that have stopped Bowling Green from becoming a national stop," said local concert promoter Seth Anderson.

Oddly enough, it's the athletic department that has the power to fix at least one of those obstacles. Plans are currently on the table for a new 7,000 seat convocation center to replace Anderson Arena for basketball and other events, including concerts. The venue would be similar in size to the University of Toledo's Savage Hall,

which has hosted The Barenaked Ladies and Matchbox 20 in the last two years, and the convocation center at Eastern Michigan University that had the Goo Goo Dolls play last year. However, Athletic Director Paul Krebs is quick to point out that a convocation center is likely to be out on hold until more important economic issues in the University are worked out.

"I think it's always an issue we're going to talk about and keep front and center," Krebs says, "but the economic reality is the critical need for baseline funding causes these sorts of projects to drop to the bottom because you're focusing on more pressing issues."

At the same time, Krebs confided to The BG News in the spring that he wouldn't be averse to holding a concert in 30,000 seat Doyt L. Perry Stadium. Krebs, a BGSU graduate, was in attendance the last time the Doyt held a concert, a festival in the mid 1970's that featured several prominent national acts but was

not seen to fruition because of inclement weather. A raucous crowd wasn't amused and tore the stadium to shreds. Since then, The Doyt has been a football-only arena.

While working in the athletic department at Ohio State before coming to Bowling Green in 1998, Krebs played a pivotal role in bringing Pink Floyd and Genesis to Ohio Stadium. He says that, with the right act at the right time and the right planning, he would support the idea of a concert in the stadium.

"I think you make decisions to use institutional resources for the most good for the University," he said. "I'm not opposed to a concert in the right environment, with the right safety precautions. I'd like to see someone take a look at that."

But for now Bowling Green music will primarily be seen in the three bars that are currently driving the scene. And that's okay for the people who turn out at shows night after night.

This is the watch Stephen Hollingshead, Jr. was wearing when he encountered a drunk driver. Time of death 6:55pm.

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Survey: Drinking equals popularity

CARBONDALE, Ill. (U-Wire) — According to a nationwide study conducted by the Annenberg Public Policy Center, 57 percent of 14- to 22-year-olds believe that peers who are well-liked probably drink alcohol. The study concluded that only 9 percent of those surveyed thought unpopular peers were likely to drink.

THE WEEK

Santa taken off Rally's roof

By Chuck Soder
THE BG NEWS

Santa is dead — in effigy, at least.

Two weeks ago the city ordered Rally's to take down a giant, balloon Santa Claus tied to the roof of the fast-food restaurant at 1005 N. Main St.

Luke Nichter, Rally's general manager, disagrees with the city. And to let them know, he's using the marquee, which reads "BG Can Kill Santa, But Not Christmas."

Bob Schetzer, city zoning enforcer, gave three reasons why the city opposed the balloon, which was used for the restaurant's Christmas in July promotion.

First, city law says a business can only post three signs on its property. Because they draw attention to the restaurant, such balloons are considered signs.

Second, the possibility the balloon could distract drivers on Main Street poses a safety hazard.

Finally, the 20-foot-tall Santa was perched too high for city law, Schetzer said. "You can't put something that big on the roof."

Nichter said the sign law is unfair. Lights are counted as a sign under city law because they draw attention. By this definition, the menu on Rally's walk-up patio is a sign as well.

"All of our lights count as a sign," he said. "I consider them a safety precaution."

He added that counting the patio menu is unfair because, as a drive-thru only restaurant, it's the only menu customers see.

"I can't function my business without it," he said.

By the city's definition of "sign," Rally's and many other businesses have been over the

limit for years, according to Nichter. Many modern restaurants need more than three signs, especially when it comes to fast food, as drive-thru menus count as signs.

"(The ordinance) was probably written before drive-thrus were invented," he said. "I've probably got around 10 on my property."

It is possible for businesses to have more than three signs, according to Schetzer. But the city must approve extra ones.

"If a restaurant wants a fourth or fifth sign, then they'd have to ask the zoning board," Schetzer said.

Nichter also said that Rally's should be able to keep Santa on the roof because South Side 6, on the corner of Main and Napoleon, has erected the exact same balloon at Christmas for the past six years.

"It was used in the same manner at another busy intersection," he said. "The law isn't uniformly enforced. (The balloon) was okay at Christmas but not now — not in July."

Schetzer argues that the situation at South Side 6 is different from that at Rally's. South Side 6 got city permission before putting up the balloon. Rally's didn't.

"South Side 6 had to deflate Santa at night and follow some other regulations," he said.

Rally's Christmas in July special, which features \$.49 burgers, shakes and hot dogs, is continuing anyway, Nichter said. With or without Santa, the store still has plenty to celebrate.

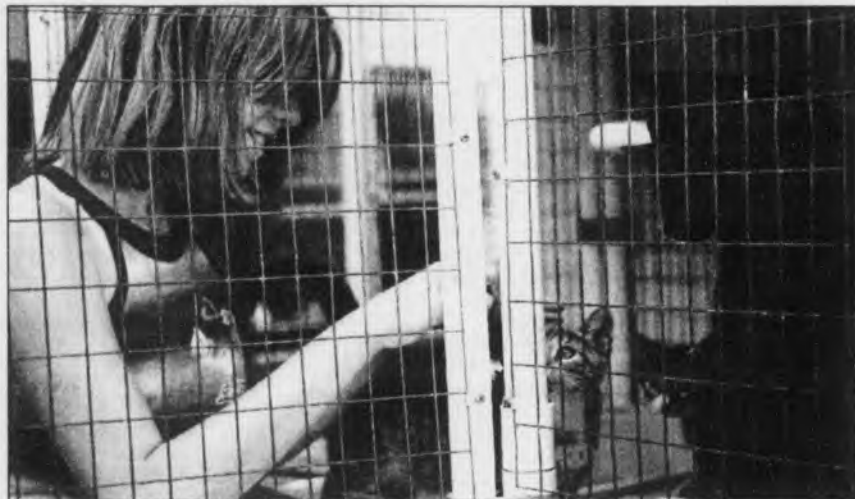
"It's our best special in nine years and it's sort of our anniversary sale, too," he said, adding that the store turns nine in October.



Chuck Soder BG News

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: The Rally's marquee protests the city's order to remove the giant Santa balloon from its roof.

Local shelters deal with animal overpopulation



Jenn Trevino BG News

HELLO KITTY: Cassandra Barger, a volunteer at Wood County Humane Society, plays with several of the kittens waiting for homes.

By Beth Franklin
THE BG NEWS

They are soft, furry, lovable and playful. They will run to catch a bone or purr in your lap. Dogs and cats can make excellent pets and even better friends; so why are so many ending up at the Wood County Humane Society and the Wood County Dog Shelter?

Over-crowding in both of the animal shelters is a growing problem. A problem that both shelters say could be solved if people would spay and neuter their pets.

"If folks were responsible we wouldn't have to euthanize," said Paula Hamman, the Chief Dog Warden at the Wood County Dog Shelter. "We are always over-crowded. It's because people don't confine their dogs and they don't spay or neuter them."

Kerry Long, an animal caretaker at the Humane Society, agrees with Hamman. However, the Humane Society is a no-kill shelter, meaning that they don't

euthanize animals. They are forced to turn away any animals they don't have room for, unless the animal is a victim of animal cruelty. In the case of animal cruelty, it is the Humane Society's policy to accept every victim.

All animals turned away from the shelter are referred to another shelter. The recommended shelters may or may not have a no-kill policy.

"It's hard, because you can't save them all," Long said. "We do refer people to kill-shelters when we have to."

The Dog Shelter is required to take in every dog that is brought to it. The steady stream of strays, cruelty victims and unwanted pets fills the facility quickly. The more dogs the shelter has coming in, the more it has to put down. It's something Hamman wishes didn't have to happen.

"It's too bad," she said. "Other people's irresponsibility leads to

our heartbreak."

To help educate people about pet ownership, the Dog Shelter puts tips and facts on the flyers they use as advertisements for the dogs that are available for adoption. One of the flyers informs people that pets should not be surprise gifts for anyone. Instead, the flyer advises that they discuss the option with the person first.

Hamman also spends time at schools talking to kids about the responsibilities that come with owning a pet.

"The best part is that people will listen to kids," Hamman said. "Kids harp at their parents."

In an effort to encourage more people to have their pets spayed or neutered, the Humane Society offers vouchers for discounts on the surgery for cats. The money for the vouchers comes from a grant. There is no grant for dogs yet, but the Humane Society is currently working to get one.



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QUOTE UNQUOTE

"I called him 'Lucky' because I thought I got him out of there just in time."

SHERRY SCOTT, a Liberty, Mo., woman, on rescuing a 7-week-old kitten after a group of her neighbors attempted to grill it alive on a barbecue.

www.bgnews.com/opinion

OPINION

Getting a dog more than petting, fun times

By Aron Parekh
U-WIRE

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - So, you want to get a dog? If you think you just buy the thing, pet it once in a while and feed it, then you are in for a surprise! Let me get some visuals in your head to dissuade you of this oversimplified view.

Poop, barf, and hair -- and that's just for starters.

I had always had a dog growing up at home, so I thought, "It's no big deal, I know how to take care of a dog." I went out and got one; she's an odd looking little mutt named Tena. It's great to go out and buy treats and toys, but the problem is your mom isn't there to deal with all the messy

extras that come with owning a dog.

Let's start with your dog going to the bathroom. It's gross, but you have to clean it up. When you get a dog, you know to expect this. But in the beginning, you may decide to "accidentally" forget to pick it up. That's fine and dandy until the stuff starts piling up and it looks like a land mine field. Dodge left, quick to the right, but you eventually end up stepping in it. So then you move on to use the plastic grocery bags; no problem until you realize there was a hole in the bag and find your finger going through the hole...yuck! And wait until you find it inside!

When I got Tena, she was 8, so

she was well trained. But the stress of being in a new, strange environment got to her. The first incident occurred when I got in bed one night and felt my leg hit something under the covers ... nasty. The next time I actually admired her for her patience and creativity. There was a sock on my floor neatly wrapped in a circle, and low and behold, inside it was another surprise. I can't imagine the dedication it took her for wrapping it up like a Christmas present.

Then there are the panic moments, like when Tena was frantically scratching the blanket on my futon as I was studying for finals. I walked over, and sure enough, she was trying to cover

up her little treasure with a blanket.

One of the most disgusting things to deal with is barf. Dogs just spontaneously decide to puke for no reason, anywhere at any time. They begin by writhing like a jammed machine gun as their bodies lurch forward and deliver their bounty. Most of the time, it's just innocent colored liquid which is easy to clean, especially if you find it all over your sheets on your bed.

And finally, there is all that hair. I was told by the previous owners that Tena shed "just a little bit." Well, if you come on over to my place sometime, you'll see a light dusting of dog hair on everything I own. In some places

on the carpet it is so matted into the fibers that nothing can get it out.

Then there are the moments you can't be ready for: the combinations.

For instance, I was woken up one morning by a very persistent wet nose nudging me. After finally giving in and getting up, I took Tena out. The second she touched the grass, projectile liquids ala Linda Blaire in the Exorcist began shooting out of not one, but both ends! I didn't know whether to look away in horror or laugh my butt off.

And the bills shots, flea and tick prevention, heartworm pills, grooming, teeth cleanings, food, treats, toys, etc. -- they add up to

a lot more than you would expect.

But all these things are of no consequence, especially after you really bond with your dog. There are all those moments that everyone expects so I didn't feel the need to deal with them -- the excited greeting at the door when you come home, the companionship, the non-judgmental shoulder to cry on, basically unconditional love. And that's the true joy of owning a dog; all the other stuff will just become old hat.

So if you get to the point where you know your dog's bowel movement schedule better than your own, then that's true love. Congratulations.

Vice President Cheney a scapegoat for Bush's presidential shortcomings

Staff Editorial
DAILY ILLINI

U-Wire - First it was the tag-team War on Drugs and War on Terrorism. Then, President George W. Bush fought his phony fight against corporate America. Now, on to Vice President Dick Cheney.

One diversion after another, the Bush administration has been relentless in its efforts to pull the wool over the American public's eyes and shift attention away from the president's ongoing flops.

White House officials leaked information this week pinning Cheney as a "liability" to the administration's attempts to distance itself from the corporate scandals jarring the stock market. Shortly after Bush's infamous "corporate integrity" speech, news broke of the vice president's questionable practices as the chief executive of Halliburton, a Houston-based energy company. In this most

recent frantic effort to boost the market, White House officials have shifted the blame once again. This time the brand burns into Cheney's head.

The administration has now turned on one of its own. Cheney has been reduced to cannon fodder. The White House is all abuzz.

A Chicago Sun-Times headline read "Cheney could be out in 2004" and the gossip is collecting as campaign personnel are supposedly considering a replacement for Cheney if Bush runs for re-election. Secretary of State Colin Powell? National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice? Attorney General John Ashcroft? Who will fill the scandal-soiled shoes?

Does anybody really care?

Cheney is a liability; the White House is right about that much. But he's no more a liability than Bush himself. And the future of the American stock market does not depend on securing another running mate for Bush.

Despite his efforts to gain a little more credibility in the public eye, inadvertently sending the Dow Jones Industrial into a fear-based dive, Bush's consistent wrong-doing is the real blockage in our country's financial heart.

If we must weigh the corruption in our nation's two top dogs, the scales come out pretty balanced. Cheney's got his problems with Halliburton, Bush has his with Harken Energy Corp., also based in Houston.

On this date in 2000, the Dow closed at 9731.81. Yesterday, it dropped under 7785. There's more to this than Cheney.

It is time to consider the integrity of our country's leaders, and Cheney is certainly high on the list of possible frauds with too much power. But instead of talking about how much of a liability the vice president is to our government's image, maybe it's time to start pointing fingers at the guy who put him there in the first place.

New H.I.V. positive muppet on Sesame Street good for South African viewers, but for U.S.?

Staff Editorial
IOWA STATE DAILY

U-Wire - While the announcement of a new character on the South African version of Sesame Street, "Takalani Sesame", sent the U.S. press into orbit, African papers only briefly mentioned the introduction of the new HIV positive female muppet. The differences in reactions illustrates why the character is appropriate in South Africa, but perhaps not yet in America.

The HIV-positive muppet will help present HIV/AIDS in an age-appropriate way, such as teaching children the precautions to take when the muppet gets a cut and letting them know that contact such as shaking hands puts no one at risk.

The HIV-afflicted muppet is a good idea in Africa because it adds one more weapon to help fight the epidemic. With rates of infection of 20 percent or more in many sub-Saharan African countries, anything that can be added to the arsenal to slow the spread of this killer is essential.

In Africa, television is often

viewed in a community setting. In a lounge in a college dorm or packed around the screen in a pub, the act of watching television in Africa is uniquely communal. In South Africa, a nation where nearly one-fifth of the public is infected, few people admit their HIV status for fear of being ostracized.

As communities view a happy muppet living openly with HIV, they will have a forum for discussing the sensitive topic, beginning with a simple and non-threatening children's take on it. Hopefully, the South African Muppet will serve as a launch pad for more sophisticated presentations and discussions, eventually contributing to the social destigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS.

As the primary exporter of global culture, the United States should commend the creative teams of South Africa's Sesame Street for courageously addressing HIV/AIDS. In the spirit of Sesame Street, the HIV muppet will tackle a tough issue in a reassuring, age-appropriate manner

-- just like Sesame Street has handled death, disabilities, and diversity issues in the past.

Rather than reacting negatively to the HIV Muppet, we should anxiously await its debut and watch for its efficacy in increasing awareness and communication about HIV/AIDS.

Though it is debatable whether an HIV-positive Muppet would make sense in America, where the incidence of HIV/AIDS is much lower, we should observe the reaction in South Africa. If the Muppet proves to be a good way of increasing awareness, the producers of the American Sesame Street should consider using a similar character to address pressing public health concerns in the United States, such as obesity or cancer.

Bravo to South Africa's Sesame Street for getting involved in educating the public about HIV/AIDS. Time will tell whether the HIV Muppet will be part of the U.S. show, but regardless, it's a good idea in South Africa.

Submission policy

Do you agree with all of this? We doubt it. Write us and let us know where you stand.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are to be less than 500 words (less than two typed, double-spaced pages). These are usually in response to a current issue on the BGSU campus or Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are longer pieces between 600 and 800 words. These are usually, also, in response to a current issue on the BGSU campus or Bowling Green area.

POLICIES

Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space permits.

Name, phone number and address should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks and anonymous submissions will not be printed. Send submission to the Opinion mailbox at 210 West Hall or bgnews@listproc.bgsu.edu with the subject line marked "letter to the editor" or "guest column."

BG NEWS

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Jennings was wrong

JASON
SMITH

Georgia State U.

This "political correctness" thing has got to go.

Country singer Toby Keith was all set to sing his new song, "Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue (The Angry American)" on a July 4 special on ABC. Keith, who wrote the song shortly after September 11th, was actually going to start the show off.

However, Peter Jennings vetoed the idea when he heard the song, which has a line in it that says, "You'll be sorry that you messed with the U.S. of A. 'Cause we'll put a boot in your ass, it's the American way."

Jennings has understandably said that he wanted the show to maintain a celebratory nature. But, there are a lot of people out there who are just as angry as this song is about the terrorist attacks. Jennings may not like the brutally honest way Toby Keith expresses that anger, but there are a lot of people -- angry Americans, if you will -- that can identify with the song. For some of them, their anger will never go away, and songs like "God Bless the U.S.A." are not going to help.

In the song's video, footage of Keith's performances in front of military troops is shown. When he sings the line that has generated so much controversy, the troops' reactions are shown, as they cheer Keith on. One might even say they're celebrating. Performances, like Keith's, have the ability to reinvigorate the troops as they take care of business for us. As evidenced by their reactions, the song is good enough for them.

Media outlets all over the country have had Keith on their shows and have allowed him to play the song unchecked. It was good enough for them.

One U.S. senator even sent Jennings a pair of boots as a message of support for the song. The song was good enough for him.

Keith's song has rocketed up the charts in recent weeks, though, admittedly, part of that may come as a reaction to the controversy and not just the song itself. In either case, the song is good enough for those listeners.

But, because of its angry nature, it's not good enough for Jennings.

Anger may not be a politically-correct emotion, and the words Keith sings in his song may not be warm and fuzzy, but he speaks for a lot of people with his words. These are people with real emotions who were scarred deeply by the events nearly a year ago. Sure, there might have been another way for him to express his anger in song, without having to curse, but to try to silence him only fuels the anger that so many feel.

Jennings didn't want the song on his show, but the ensuing controversy only made the song more popular. Perhaps he should take another look at the pair of boots he got from that certain U.S. senator and put them on the next time he considers shooting himself in the foot.

THOSE CAMPUS SPRINKLERS ARE GETTING ANNOYING

POINT

WEDNESDAY

JULY 24,
2002

....

www.bgnews.com

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

10 QUESTIONS | STAR AFRIQUE

HIP HOPPIN' BG

STAR AFRIQUE MAKES HIP HOP FASHIONABLE



Photo Provided

Play the crowd: Star Afrique, Abibo Ngandu, left and Emmanuel (AJ.) Essel are leading the hip hop movement in Bowling Green.

One is from the African Congo, the other hails from Ghana and thousands of miles away from their respective homelands Abibo Ngandu (Congo) and Emmanuel (AJ) Essel (Ghana) are making a stir in Bowling Green as the area's best hip hop group.

The duo have been a staple at Howard's for the last two years and have drawn over 200 people their last four shows.

Weather the Bowling Green music scene is waning or thriving Star Afrique have successfully carved their own niche. When the group formed, Ngandu, 23 and Essel, 26, learned a lot from Common Ground, one of the original Bowling Green hip hop acts. From there they've developed an impressive stage show and solid fan base. We sat down with Ngandu to see what makes Star Afrique tick.

1 What do you think about how the bowling green community has embraced you in the last two years.

It's interesting. They were very skeptical at the beginning because, first of all hip hop in Bowling Green. I don't know they were taking hip hop seriously. We started going to Howard's. Some people knew that we were two African men and people would wonder where the connection is. Open

minded people came to see two Africans rapping. Now we've been packing the place.

2 What do you think about the apparent lack of unity amongst Bowling Green bands?

The problem is that for some reason different bands don't communicate. Star Afrique, Common Ground and Black Swamp Coalition can relate with each other because we're together. We're so focused on our thing that we ignore the rock bands. And probably vice versa. Personally, we were trying to explore how to fuse with a live band to make it like The Roots. We've been looking into the rock and rap fusion.

3 Where is your favorite place to play in Bowling Green?

Definitely Howard's. The room, the way it's built is great, the audio is good and the equipment is good. They have enough room to really bring in a lot of people. Every time we went to Easystreet we had technical difficulties.

4 Who is your favorite band in BG?

There's always one thing I like about each band. I don't have a favorite but I respect all of them. Common Ground has been

doing this thing for so long. But of course Star Afrique because I gotta be on my own A-list.

5 As two native Africans, was there any backlash from the African-American hip-hop community?

There was a lot of obstacles with that. It's not as serious as the white rapper, but with the African-American community, there was a little mockery here and there. But once they saw us they knew we were for real they started accepting us.

6 A.J. graduated last year and you're going to graduate in December, what is the future of this band?

With AJ gone, things have tremendously slowed down. Because when we were students we would just meet up and work on some new material. AJ and I came to the arrangement that Star Afrique will live for as long as it can. Star Afrique will do a lot of things out of town. We'll come here sometimes but hopefully we can hit Detroit, Chicago and Cleveland.

7 What other things are you involved with?

As an African student I am involved in the African People Association. We promote the

African culture in the Bowling Green community to make people more aware. I've been hosting Video Bank for two years. I had to leave because I'm graduating in Dec.

8 How did you guys meet?
When an African student comes to BG, they are already registered in the APA computer. We had a common friend, but we didn't know each other. He hooked us up because he knew we both liked hip hop and AJ and I clicked right away. AJ already had a mini studio back then. He had enough equipment to make his own songs.

9 Where does the name come from?
The reason behind the name is that I'm from the french-speaking Africa and he's from the english-speaking Africa and we wanted to represent both parts. We took the english word Star and Afrique, which is Africa in french.

10 What is your relationship like as a duo?
AJ is three years older than me so I look up to him, but at the same time he's still my partner.

— By Dan Nied

WEIRD

NEWS
Hey mom, don't
watch channel 8

DENVER — Mayor Wellington Webb's office has fielded calls from national media interested in the debut of the city's anti-prostitution campaign. Beginning Thursday, the city's cable Channel 8 will air about 50 mug shots of men convicted of soliciting prostitutes and of the hookers themselves.

The first group are those caught in police stings since July 3.

The photographs, people's names and dates of birth will be shown at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily except on Mondays, when the show will air at 6 p.m., prior to the live, weekly City Council meeting.

"The more deterrents we can put out there, the better," said City Councilwoman Elbra Wedgeworth, who has worked with Colfax Avenue residents upset about the prostitution problem. "Until we get a new jail and don't have to release these women early, we're going to have to find other ways to address the problem."

The photographs also will be displayed on www.denvergov.org.

Just not right

Berkeley, CALIF. — Hundreds of women, with hopefully peckish babies in tow, will gather at a Berkeley, Calif., park Aug. 3 in an attempt to shatter the Guinness World Record for simultaneous breast-feeding.

There is indeed such a record, set last year by 536 well-synchronized women in Australia.

Organizer Ellen Sirbu thinks it won't be too hard to surpass this quirky achievement: After all, she already has registered more than 350 moms, some from as far away as Southern California and Washington state. She hopes as many as a thousand women will show up.

Sirbu, who directs Berkeley's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, said she learned about the record while traveling in Australia.

"In Australia, everyone breast-feeds," she said. "The stores have decals saying 'Breast-feeding mothers and infants welcome.' It's great."

Fat man airlifted to hospital, too fat

BERLIN - A man weighing 300 kg (660 lb) needed 16 firemen, a crane and a truck to reach a hospital in the German city of Stuttgart, according to the fire department.

The man, too ill to move himself, was too large to be carried down the stairs from his first-floor apartment. Instead firemen took him to the window to be lowered by crane onto a hospital bed fastened on the roof of a fire truck on Saturday.

"Of course the man was surrounded by a canvas cover to shield him from public view during the ride," said Wilfried Hachtel of the Stuttgart fire department.

— From Fark.com

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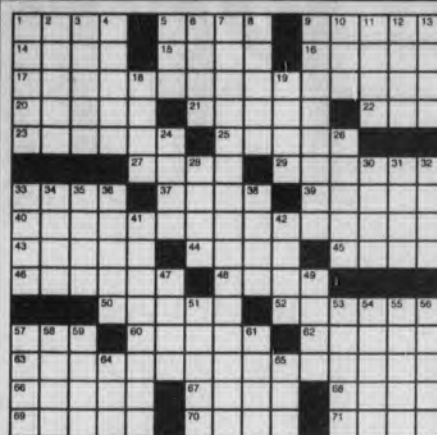
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1 Evil giants
2 Decorative feather
3 Shadings
4 Wear
5 Cote call
6 Makes a move
7 Cry uncle?
8 Serengeti carnivore
9 Gambler's date?
10 Militarize
11 Toe tip
12 Up to the task
13 Capri or Anglesey
18 Negative in Novgorod
19 Colonial black cuckoos
24 Vegetarian's staple
26 Slow-moving animal
28 Young lice
30 Air
31 Invites
32 Scottish loch
33 Sailor's mop
34 Aperture
35 Part of Q.E.D.
36 Japanese guard dog
38 Tanker or cruiser
41 Short joke

DOWN

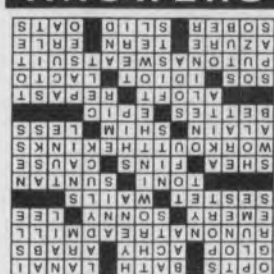
42 Abu Dhabi leader
47 Whiskey spritz
49 Breton, e.g.
51 Dukes
53 Procession of matadors
54 Luxury Honda
55 Wading bird
56 Lugs
57 Health resort springs
58 Greek liqueur
59 Broadway souvenir
61 Actress Garr
64 Mine find
65 Too

ACROSS

1 Elects
5 Cleansing routine
9 Island west of Maui
14 Soft, soggy mixture
15 Sore
16 Saudis and Syrians
17 Get nowhere fast?
20 Fine-grained corundum
21 Heavyweight boxer Liston
22 Christopher or Pinky
23 Six-line poem
25 Mournful cries
27 "Beloved" writer Morrison
29 Bronze skin
33 New York stadium
37 Five-dollar bills
39 Motive
40 Train with chains?
43 Prost or Resnais
44 Leveling piece
45 Fewer
46 Midier and Davis

48 Monumental
50 In the air
52 Meal
57 Help!
60 Dimwit
62 Milk: pref.
63 Prepare to perspire?
66 Sky blue
67 Gull relative
68 Perry's creator
69 Temperate
70 Lost traction
71 Feed-bag morsels

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Campbell Hill Apartments

(308, 314, 318, 324, 326, 328 & 330 Campbell hill Rd.)

- 2 Bedroom
- Furnished
- A/C, Dishwashers, garbage disposals
- Rent from \$775.00/mo.

Only 5 units left!

• 445 EAST WOOSTER ST. •
352-0717



HOURS:
Mon-Fri
9am - 5pm
Saturday
9am - 1pm

UNITS GOING FAST!

OVERHEATING IN THE HOT AND MUGGY WEATHER?

Then cool off at the



The new summer menu includes chicken wings, quesadillas, and nachos.

Challenge a friend to a round of Golden Tee Golf.
Free pool and darts! Big screen HDTV! New jukebox!
Did we mention free Popcorn?

Monday thru Friday from 4pm -7pm all summer long

Trivia

1. Who has two swimming pools?
Answer: Winthrop Terrace Residents
2. Who has free campus shuttle service?
Answer: Winthrop Terrace Residents
3. Who has air conditioned apartments?
Answer: Winthrop Terrace Residents

Winthrop and Summit
Terrace Apartments
for lease information call:
352-9135
400 Napoleon Rd.

EVERY
•Prime Rib•
NIGHT
at
Sam's
RESTAURANT
163 S. MAIN ST.